

CLASSIFICATION TOP SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. [REDACTED]

COUNTRY Germany (Polish-Administered Area)

DATE DISTR. 6 March 1950

SUBJECT Prisons in Silesia

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INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. A number of prisons or prison camps in Silesia and neighboring areas are described by the term "Oboz Filtracyjny" (filtration camp); it is understood that these are used mostly for persons caught by the WOP while attempting to cross the frontier illegally into Germany. Many Polish miners who had worked in France and returned to Poland are said to be among the inmates; finding conditions in Poland not what they had been led to expect, they had tried to escape. Other inmates are Jews who were no longer willing to remain in Poland. The French officials arrested in 1949 on charges of espionage are said to have been held in "filtration camps" in Jauer (Jaworów) or Breslau (Wrocław) until their trial.
2. The "camps" are actually located in regular prison buildings. There is one in Jauer, one in Glatz (Kłodzko) and at least three in Breslau. Of these the largest, called Kleczi (sic), has between 500 and 1,000 cells; it is in a prison built by the Germans, to which the Poles have added another building. A former inmate has stated that cells designed for one prisoner now hold six or eight. Besides the would-be border-crossers, this camp now contains also political prisoners, mostly members of the Peasant Party. Beginning early in January, new arrivals included many shopkeepers and business men.
3. A second prison in Breslau is called Sadowy; it is reported that there was an epidemic of typhus in this prison during the first part of January 1950. The third prison, called Podwale Okawskie, which serves also as district headquarters for the Polish Security Police, is used principally to house prisoners charged with sabotage and espionage.
4. The favorite method for securing confessions appears to be incarceration in special small cells where the temperature can be regulated to well below freezing. If, however, a prisoner is recalcitrant, the MVD may be called in to help with the interrogation. Prisoners in whom the Russians themselves are interested are removed by the MVD, and interrogated for prolonged periods at Liegnitz (Lignica).
5. The severity of imprisonment in the "filtration camps" is said to be mitigated to some degree by the guards' susceptibility to bribes.

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6. Confessions obtained at the prisons are sent to the "Special Commission" (Komisja Specialna), a tribunal which imposes sentences on defendants in absentia. The usual sentence is two to five years in a labor camp called Milencin, near Wloclawek (J 73).

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